



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: June 14, 2017

Location: Bishop School Library

7 p.m.

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions:**

Heather Breslau opened the meeting with a brief outline of the agenda. At the start of the meeting the following Bishop Community members were present: Heather Breslau, Meredith Dimola, Principal Mark McAneny, Jenn Badua, Jeannine Ranaghan, Melina Salerno, Lynne Aftuck, Sheelagh Stirling, Sarah Eastman, Deborah Kokinos, Katherine Reisz Hanson, Anna Pisanina, Ami Fatula, and Mark Davila

- May 2017 meeting minutes were announced as on the website and a motion to approve the minutes as written was presented by Heather Breslau, seconded by Jenn Badua.

- **Arlington Vision 2020 Update (Scott Lever):**

Scott Lever is part of the Arlington Vision 2020 Task Group. It is a comprised of parents from different schools and community members. Scott Lever said he wanted to get involved when he was at a parent meeting a year ago and realized that he did not know the vision of the Arlington public school system. He said there has been a lot of activism in Arlington regarding the school buildings, but not a lot of activism regarding the strategy of the schools and what happens inside the buildings. Arlington Vision 2020 has a Facebook page with informational materials. Scott Lever would like to come to a PTO meeting in the fall to discuss things with a larger group.

- **Principal's Update (Mark McAneny):**

Mr. McAneny thanked the PTO for another great year at Bishop. He said that many of the things that happen at Bishop cannot be done without community support. Mr. McAneny is very proud to be the leader of this school. He has been very pleased with the goals the Staff has achieved this year. Also, he is very happy that teachers were able to observe each other in a classroom setting to determine best practices. He said that Bishop has been the first to do many things in the District such as taking the MCAS online which has been very beneficial. This was the third year that Bishop did online testing while many other schools are just starting to do that. Mr. McAneny is already starting to think about next year. Ms. Franchi is leaving at the end of this year so there

will be a new first grade teacher and a new learning specialist (now Bishop will have 3 learning specialists). Amy Burgess is the new Sr. Custodian at Bishop. Amy was at Brackett for the past 10 years as a Jr. Custodian. . Tom Liberty is the new Jr. Custodian at Bishop. We are very happy to have them.

Question from Anna Pisania: How will the learning specialists be spread throughout the school? Response from Mr. McAneny: He expects to listen to the teachers to determine how it will be done. He wants to do co-teaching to make sure that all the student needs are met. More research needs to be done to work out scheduling and curriculum issues associated with co-teaching. This summer teachers will be going to co-teaching workshops. We are taking things slowly and hope in 2018-2019 we will be ready to use this method in our school. Question from Melina Salerno: Will things happening in Washington effect our budget? Response from Mr. McAneny: The town will be hit with overrides over the next few years. The Superintendent looks at federal and state funding all the time. Bishop is not looking at adding things. The budget is expected to be tight for the next two years. The Bishop budget was not frozen this year (as it has been in years past). The budget for next year is a little short from last year, but we will still be able to make it work. Question from Deborah Kokinos: What happens on Tuesdays after the kids get out at 1? Response from Mr. McAneny: Some weeks there is District professional development and other weeks the Bishop grade level teacher teams meet with each other.

- Teacher's Update (Lynne Aftuck):

Ms. Aftuck said that the Staff meetings the past few weeks have been great when the Staff shared their teaching goals. It's very interesting for the Staff to hear what everyone is working on. There are a lot of year end celebrations happening during the last two weeks of school. The teachers really enjoyed the Teacher's Tea last week.

- Co-President's Report (Heather Breslau/Meredith Dimola):

Heather Breslau said that we had a successful Bear Fair which was necessary in order to reach our budget. Thank you to Jean Clark for leading Field Day. Also thanks to Jean Clark and Katherine Reisz Hanson for leading the Teacher's Tea. Meredith Dimola said this summer we are hoping to complete some of the classroom improvements the teachers requested when responding to the PTO teacher survey. A sign up genius will be circulated shortly. The science kiosk will be done this weekend. There will be a section on the kiosk for PTO, garden and general community announcements. We have asked the 3rd graders and community members to decorate rocks to put around the rock dedicated to Charlie Buck. Meredith Dimola also thanked the outgoing PTO members. Comment from Melina Salerno: The PTO is looking into getting new speakers for the classrooms because the teachers said that it is very difficult to hear when using the projector. We hope to have that done for next year.

- Budget Update (Deborah Kokinos/Melina Salerno):

Melina Salerno said that the budget is in good shape. 83% (\$46,000) of the budgeted income has been accounted for and some more will filter in through the end of the school year. The majority of the income was from the Bear Fair/Used Goods Sale (approx. \$17,000) and the Annual Fund (approx. \$9,400). 83% (\$65,000) of the budgeted expenses has been accounted for as of yesterday. The approximately \$20,000 difference between the budgeted income and budgeted expenses was expected. The PTO was carrying a surplus from the past few years that we were trying to spend down. We will enter next year with \$8,000-\$10,000 in surplus funds remaining. There is also a \$15,000 "rainy day fund" that is not included in the \$8,000-10,000 surplus fund.

- PTO Election:

Heather Breslau made a motion to approve the new PTO Board Members and Jenn Badua seconded the motion. The new PTO Board Members are:

Sarah Eastman - Co-President
Sheelagh Stirling - Communications Coordinator
Lindsay Baron - Fundraising Coordinator
Ami Fatula - Co –Treasurer

- Announcements:

Katherine Reisz Hanson stated that this will be the last year she will run the Pumpkin Sale so she will need someone to shadow her this year to take over for the future.